



Spring 2006

Montana Department of Corrections Correctional Signpost



A Montana National Guard member gives instruction on the use of night-vision goggles to Lewis and Clark County sheriff's officers during the search for Dueston Haggard.

Escape spotlights issue of inmate transportation

The Jan. 11 escape of Dueston Haggard from a Cascade County sheriff's van en route to Montana State Prison turned the spotlight on inmate transportation once again.

Haggard, 28, jumped from the van north of Helena and was captured without incident in a Helena motel about 15 hours later. It was the second escape of an inmate in the Helena area during transport within the past two years.

The escape came less than six months before the Department of Corrections is scheduled to take over all of its own inmate transports from TransCor, the company involved in the 2004 escape.

In the aftermath of the Haggard escape, Director

Bill Slaughter discussed publicly the potential for the department to assume almost all of the prisoner transfers in the state. The department already does about 47 percent of such transports.

Slaughter said having one agency responsible for the duty could mean a more coordinated program with more consistent security standards. He suggested, if the 2007 Legislature approves a proposal, an advisory board would be created to establish policies and standards. He estimated the department could handle about 90 percent of the transports, including those done by the U.S. Marshal's Service.

More ESCAPE, Page 2

Court worker plan gets tribal support

By Bob Anez
DOC Communications Director

Montana's tribal leaders have applauded the Department of Corrections' proposed program designed to help bridge the cultural divide that often puts American Indian offenders at a disadvantage in the criminal system.

In a meeting at the Capitol, tribal officials pledged support for the "native court worker" pilot project that will be funded with a \$100,000 federal grant.

Jimmy St. Goddard, a Blackfeet Tribal Council member, called the concept "awesome." He estimated that 40 percent of Indians accused of crimes are not guilty, but plead guilty because of the intimidating nature of the criminal justice system.

"I'll send you the right people" to help get the program off the ground, St. Goddard told Corrections Director Bill Slaughter.

The discussion came up in a meeting organized by Anna Whiting-Sorrell, Gov. Brian Schweitzer's human services adviser.

Slaughter; Jim Mason, the department's native American liaison; and Cathy Gordon, representing the Community Corrections Division, explained the program that could be launched as early as this summer.

More COURT, Page 7



Gubernatorial adviser Anna Whiting-Sorrell, far right, discusses correctional issues with Montana's American Indian tribal leaders. (Photo courtesy of George Lane)

New license plates head to the streets

Gail Boese
MCE Administrative Officer

The license plate factory, a program within the Montana Correctional Enterprises Division of the Department of Corrections and located at Montana State Prison, has been a busy place this year as it produces the a new version of the standard license plates.

Authorized by the 2005 Legislature, the new plates began appearing on vehicles across Montana as motorists started registering their cars and trucks in January.

The new design includes the word "Montana" blazoned across the top in gold with the nickname "Big Sky Country" below. It also depicts Montana mountain ridges and a transition to foothills and prairies.



Helena parole officers Cody Danielson, Heather Snell and Mike Touchette prepare to join the search for Dueston Haggard on the night of Jan. 11.

Escape

From Page 1

Slaughter said the agency probably would need funding for vehicles and equipment, but that the program could be staffed with existing personnel. The system may be able to use global satellite tracking devices to keep tabs on inmates and the vans, he said.

When the idea was presented to the Law and Justice Interim Committee about a week after the escape, some members praised the idea and others questioned the expense.

The department has not yet developed an estimated cost of such a program, and no final decision has been made on whether to propose it to the next Legislature.

The "dot" between a county prefix and the plate number is the familiar skull silhouette. This plate is produced utilizing the new digital flat-plate system, which brings 21st century technology to the operation.

Montana drivers can choose from a number of license plate designs, ranging from the new generic version to one that reflects their military service or shows their support for a Montana college, university or community organization. The digital license plate system creates computerized graphic designs for the flat plates. People who apply for specialty plates shall pay the donation fee specified by the sponsor and an administrative fee. Information on the plate designs and fees is at: www.doj.mt.gov/driving/licenseplates.asp.

All sponsor names, identifying phrases and computerized graphic designs for the specialty plates must be approved by the state Justice Department prior to the manufacture of the plates. The maximum number of characters displayed on the plate is six.

Two state employees and 15 inmates work in the factory on a daily basis. The operation will produce approximately 2.7 million plates with the new re-issue, which is anticipated to create \$2.2 million in net revenue for the state over the two-year budget period. During a normal year, about 750,000 plates are produced, including regular issue, specialty, veterans, college, and other types of plates. At this time, there are over 60 different specialty plates produced, which have raised over \$2.1 million in revenues for the sponsoring organizations.

The factory is one of the several Montana Correctional Enterprises programs. These programs help the division fulfill its mission to provide employment and training opportunities for offenders, which enhances public safety, promotes positive change in offender behavior, reintegrates offenders into the community and supports victims of crime.

Other MCE programs include the prison ranch, dairy milking parlor, dairy processing, lumber processing, upholstery, sign, print, furniture, canteen, boot factory, sewing and embroidery, warehouse, vocational education, laundry, motor vehicle maintenance, commercial and Class D driver's license, fire crew, cannery, food factory and bakery. Another aspect of the motor vehicle maintenance program is the Toyota T-Ten Project, which produces automotive training aids.

The newly designed standard auto license plates roll off the presses in the plate factory at Montana State Prison.



Bozeman's re-entry center dedicated



**By Ted Sullivan
Bozeman Chronicle**

BOZEMAN -- Gov. Brian Schweitzer challenged state officials to find new ways to rehabilitate criminals and keep them out of prison.

"We've got to stop warehousing souls," he told about 100 people at a celebration honoring the Bozeman halfway house. "That's not working in Montana, that's not working in this country."

Schweitzer, Montana Department of Corrections Director Bill Slaughter and local criminal justice officials attended a ceremony in honor of the new 32-bed halfway house located on South 16th Avenue near the Law and Justice Center.

Schweitzer told the crowd Montana must lead the country in starting new programs like the halfway house to improve the justice system and curtail repeat offenders.

Part of the solution is to create good jobs, provide students with a good education and gain community support for new programs, he said.

The halfway house, which is run by the Butte nonprofit Community Corrections and Counseling Services, opened Dec. 12.

The goal of the program is to integrate offenders back into society with the support and supervision of the staff and programs offered at the home.

The program rehabilitates people from the Montana

State Prison and Gallatin County jail.

Prison isn't working," Slaughter told the crowd. "This re-entry program is what we're all about."

District Judge Mike Salvagni didn't want a halfway house more than 10 years ago when he was the county attorney, he said. His reasons included public safety issues and a lack of jobs for inmates.

"Gallatin County is a different place now than it was back then," he said of the need for a halfway house in Bozeman.

Offenders must stay in the home for about six months before they're released into the community with money, a job and a place to live on their own.

Everyone in the home must hold a job or attend school full time. Employers have been hiring men from the halfway house, paying them \$15 to \$22 an hour in a construction job.

They pay about \$300 a month to live in the 6,600-square-foot prefabricated home. No violent or sexual offenders are allowed.

Professionals provide drug and alcohol treatment, anger-management counseling, parenting and other classes for the residents.

A five-person screening committee, including a resident who lives near the halfway house, decides who can live in the home.

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BELOW: Mike Ferriter, adult community corrections administrator, tours the center with Director Michelle Kelly.



ABOVE: Gov. Brian Schweitzer addresses the crowd gathered for the dedication.

RIGHT: The center is located behind the Gallatin County Law and Justice Center.



DOC serious about safety

**By Sharon Smith
Compliance & Safety Specialist**

The Department of Corrections takes safety seriously.

The agency's safety program was established to ensure that all facilities and programs have an adequate fire protection and life safety prevention program.

Safety officers in each facility and program ensure compliance through a comprehensive training program that covers all relevant safety and sanitation practices, proper placement and maintenance of adequate fire protection equipment, a working relationship with local fire safety agencies, and a systematic schedule of inspections and audits.

The officers ensure an adequate fire response plan, and have authority and responsibility for plan preparation, annual review, and updating as needed throughout the year. The plan must be coordinated with the department's emergency preparedness procedures, and the emergency preparedness plan for the facility or program.

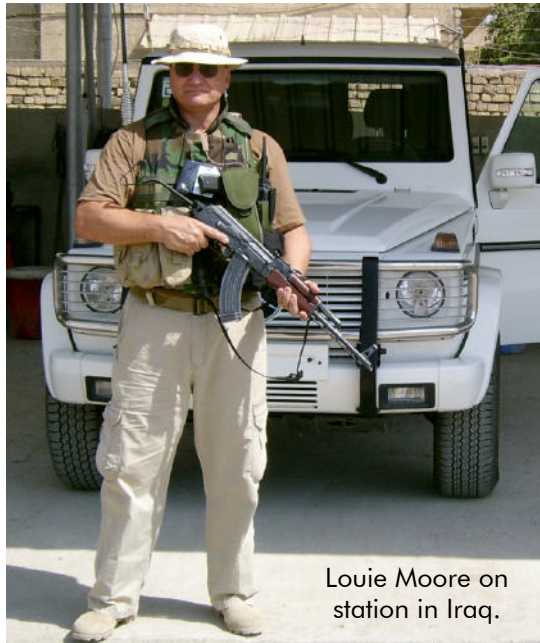
Provisions for follow-up and supplemental training in fire procedures are scheduled by the safety officer in coordination with local fire departments, which may be asked to provide staff with training in fire life safety issues.

Each facility or program has a safety committee and each safety officer is a member of the department-wide safety committee. The department committee members are Carl Nelson, Cynthia Davenport, Jeff Holland, Dan Kissner, Vicki Schiller-Long, Kelly Speer, Harlan Sipe, Dennis Wolff, Jamey Wheeler, Bill Fleiner and Sharon Smith.

Quarterly meetings are held to review concerns and identify training needs. Meetings are hosted at various facilities, giving the committee the opportunity to tour each of them.

Kalispell officer saw different Iraq

**By Kelly Speer
Corrections Manager**



Louie Moore on station in Iraq.

Much of the news out of war-torn Iraq is of death and destruction, but Louie Moore has seen another side to that Middle East nation.

A probation and parole officer in Kalispell, Moore spent a year in Iraq before returning to his job in September. Moore, 53, worked as a private contractor for an Australian security company that assisted various programs operated by the U.S. Agency of International Development. His job was as armed escort and body-guard for USAID employees working in and around Baghdad.

Moore also was a training officer and regional commander during his stay in Iraq, where he received extensive firearms training.

Moore recalled that all the local people he met in Baghdad appreciated the effort being made by the United States in their country. He said citizens recognized that soldiers, USAID workers, and other professionals such as doctors worked hard to help them have a better life. Residents were very receptive to a better way of doing things and welcomed any new information, he said.

In Moore's younger years, he was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and then became a police officer in North Carolina. In his 23 years on the force, he was part of the SWAT team and trained for special operations. After his retirement in 1997, he went on several special missions for the U.S. State Department in areas such as Bosnia, the Balkan country of Kosovo and the Indonesian island nation of East Timor.

Moore joined the Department of Corrections as a probation and parole officer in 2000 and became a firearms instructor for the agency before his one-year trip to Iraq. Moore married in July 2005 on a brief trip home from Iraq. He has three children.

Russell Kellicutt, 1958-2006

Russell Kellicutt, who was a correctional officer at Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility for nearly four years, died unexpectedly Jan. 4. He was 47.

"Just another day in paradise," was the familiar greeting he used upon arriving each day for work at the Miles City institution.

Russell was born in 1958 in Waco, Texas, and attended schools in Great Falls for a time. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1977 and was honorably discharged in 1983. He was a member of

the Army National Guard from 1985 to 1992.

Russell was employed as correctional officer in Washington state from 1997 to 2001 before moving to Miles City.

Survivors include his widow, Jolene, and five children: Robert, Kalene, Matthew, Raymond and Melissa, all of Miles City.

A memorial service was held Jan. 7. On March 9, Pine Hills Superintendent Jim Hunter presented Russell's badge mounted on a plaque to Mrs. Kellicutt.



Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger, center, presents a plaque to members of the Montana State Prison medical staff commemorating their work in addressing issues raised in a lawsuit 14 years ago. Accepting the award are Cindy Hiner, nursing director, and Cathy Redfern, health services bureau chief.

Prison's medical staff honored

By Bob Anez
DOC Communications Director

The infirmary staff at Montana State Prison will always remember its accomplishment.

The plaque on the wall will remind them.

Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger presented the plaque during a tour of the prison earlier this year. He praised the medical staff for what he called its "countless hours of dedication" in complying with requirements to improve medical, dental and mental health services at the prison.

Bohlinger noted the achievement resulted in dismissal of a major portion of a federal lawsuit filed against the state in the aftermath of the 1991 riot at the prison.

The 18 mandates contained in the 1994 settlement agreement between the state and American Civil Liberties Union covered everything from the number of doctors and nurses needed to staff the prison infirmary to how quickly patients had to be seen by staff.

Court-appointed monitors made 10 visits to the prison and filed a dozen reports chronicling the prison's progress in complying with the standards.

"In their final report to the court, the

monitors applauded the accomplishments of the prison and the medical staff," Bohlinger said in a visit to the prison infirmary.

He said, "The report concluded that 'the program we reviewed is dramatically different than the program we saw when we first became involved in this litigation. Staff are working very hard to ensure that patients are seen both timely and appropriately. For this they are to be commended.'"

Following submission of that report, the state and the ACLU agreed that further court monitoring of the medical provisions of the agreement was no longer needed.

"This is an example of government at its best, responding to the needs of the people it serves and doing so in a fashion that should be a source of pride for Montana State Prison employees and the taxpayers of Montana," Bohlinger said, in presenting a plaque commemorating the event.

Department of Corrections Director Bill Slaughter said

the dedication and diligence of the medical staff avoided what could have been a more costly and lengthy court battle over the claims against the prison.

"The work of the staff here demonstrates what people working together for the common good can accomplish," he said. "Everyone – inmates, employees and taxpayers – have benefited."

Warden Mike Mahoney said, "I believe this is a landmark event in the history of corrections in Montana, and I could not be more proud of our staff."

BELOW: Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger takes notes after asking Montana State Prison medical staff what more they need to do their jobs.



Remodeled dairy opens at prison

By Gail Boese
MCE Administrative Officer



Cows stand in the stanchions waiting to be milked.



Empty stanchions await cows for their daily visits.



Out with the old and in with the new is the theme behind Montana Correctional Enterprises' new dairy milking operation. The project involved construction of a state-of-the-art milking parlor and renovation of the former parlor into a holding area.

While old milking equipment and electrical utilities were removed from the old parlor, new computer equipment and controls were installed in the addition. In the process, the number of milking stalls doubled to 20.

The animals will be in the milking parlor less time, allowing more time to rest, eat and drink -- changes designed to increase milk production. Each cow previously produced approximately 83 pounds of milk on a daily basis, but the new milking parlor boosted daily production increased to 87 pounds per animal. In fact, milk production hit an all-time high of 89.4 pounds per cow in December 2005.

Under the new system, each cow wears a leg bracelet that contains a transponder. This transponder identifies the cow being milked, records the cow's milk weight, the milking time and the conductivity (salt level) of each cow's milk. This is useful for tracking possible infections in a cow. The transponder is also equipped with a pedometer that monitors the cow's activity level. This wealth of information is automatically recorded in the dairy's computer system each time the cow is milked.

The dairy operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day and provides work for approximately 30 inmates.

Customers include Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, Treasure State Correctional Training Center, Riverside Youth Correctional Facility, Montana State Hospital, Mental Health Nursing Care Center, Powell County jail and some non-profit organizations.

Surplus raw milk is sold to Darigold and surplus cream is sold to several confectioners that make and market specialty chocolates, caramels and syrups.

In addition to milk production, the dairy-processing facility produces cottage cheese; ice cream; yogurt; whole, skim and low-fat milk; and cream. Milk is available in half-pint, three-gallon and six-gallon containers.

Dave Svejkovsky Construction and Tekton Architects of Butte, HKM Engineering of Billings, Western Montana Engineering of Missoula, and Ritter Engineering of Billings worked on the project.

LEFT: The milking parlor pit in the remodeled dairy at Montana State Prison.

Court

From Page 1

The Department of Corrections will use the federal grant to launch the program that has the potential to divert offenders from prison and help address the prison overcrowding problem in the state. A court worker would help offenders bridge the language and cultural barriers that confront them when arrested.

The funding, obtained by Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., is expected to allow the department to contract with at least one court worker, whose job will include helping to individualize offenders' treatment in the court system.

Corrections Director Bill Slaughter said the program will be modeled after one operated by the Blackfoot Tribe near Lethbridge, Alberta, where a delegation from the Corrections Department and governor's office traveled for a briefing last fall.

"We know that we're exporting a pretty darn well-thought-out idea," he said. "The native court worker works with the judge, the prosecutor, the defense attorney. They don't represent them (offenders) legally, but they work real hard to make sure that the native folks in the system understand the system and the fact that you have to fight in this system. You can't just give up."

Slaughter said that, too often, Indian offenders, opt to plead guilty because they are so intimidated by the difficult-to-understand legal process. A court worker hopefully will be able to divert from prison those offenders who do not need to

go there, but the program is not intended to keep out of prison those who deserve to be incarcerated.

A court worker's duties will require close cooperation with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, victims, offenders' families and tribal leaders.

"Everybody deserves to be treated like an individual," Rehberg said in announcing the grant. "If I've found something that's been a problem with the federal government, it's that it has a tendency to forget that people are individuals with different problems and needs."

A court worker would provide non-legal advice to the accused, help him find a lawyer and understand the criminal justice system, involve the defendant's family and victim and assist with pre-sentence reports. The worker also could help determine if the accused is a candidate for alternative sentencing to tribal corrections programs such as a prerelease center, probation, chemical dependency treatment, mental health services and counseling by tribal elders.

By focusing on the individualized needs and issues of Indian offenders, court workers could help determine if an offender's problems can be dealt with short of incarceration.

Slaughter emphasized the program will address serious concerns over the disproportionate number of Indians behind bars in Montana. Although Indians represent about 6.5 percent of the state population, they account for 17 percent of male inmates and 26 percent of female inmates.



A Message from The Director

Bill Slaughter

The Montana Department of Corrections is collaborating with the Department of Public Health and Human Services to develop a behavioral health director's position for the corrections system.

The position and duties were first conceived by myself and Gail Gray, former DPHHS director. DPHHS Director Joan Miles has picked up the idea and become a big fan during a series of meetings that deal with a dual-agency cooperative project called "Building Bridges."

It has always been the intent of the Department of Corrections to create the position of mental health director. The modified version of that job, behavioral health director, recognizes that many offenders have co-occurring problems.

The person filling the position will coordinate services inside corrections facilities and through Montana's communities. The idea is to develop a seamless and consistent system of behavioral health services for offenders that move from secure-care facilities to community corrections programs.

Our blueprint for this position must also allow offenders to move from system to system, from those programs and services offered by corrections to those provided by health and human services.

This will be achieved through implementing a consistent treatment model, reliance on clear and uniform policies, and hiring someone as director who is able to share a vision and think outside the box.

Corrections is truly moving forward in Montana, with plans advancing for a methamphetamine treatment center that is scheduled to open early next year in Lewistown, and staff busy with leadership training and team building.

Our advisory council is working on a study of community services available to offenders, and your management team continues to work on the budget-preparation process for the 2007 Legislature. We also are developing an expansion of a department's video conferencing network that will bring offenders closer to the community services they need and the family members they cherish.

As for the director's office, we continue to help develop the native court worker project, support leadership efforts in the field, and dream of what it will take to continue building a better, more efficient, effective and caring corrections system for Montanans.

Boot camp helps senior citizens

**By Karen Vaughn
Administrative Assistant**

The timing couldn't be better for a program at the Treasure State Correctional Training Center.

With energy prices rising and little relief in sight, the Department of Corrections boot camp's project that makes alternative fuel available to low-income and elderly citizens with high winter heating bills is more popular than ever.

Each fall, a generous donation of wood is provided by Sun Mountain Lumber of Deer Lodge. A crew of city workers picks up the wood in their trucks and delivers it to the center outside of Deer Lodge near Montana State Prison. The boot camp trainees chop the wood, and the city crew returns to the center where trainees fill the trucks with chopped wood.

The trainees can load four dump trucks full of wood in approximately 20 minutes. The wood is then delivered to the Deer Lodge Senior Citizens' Center. There, several drill instructors from the boot camp volunteer their

time to help seniors load firewood onto their vehicles.

Over 100 cords of wood are donated to the needy each year, and many elderly residents get some relief from high heating bills during the winter.

The program falls under the department's policy of restorative justice and gives trainees the opportunity to donate their efforts to a community service. It's their way of giving back to needy community members. The wood-chopping chore offers a means for the trainees to give back to society, but also to work off frustration and anger. Besides the physical exertion, their self-esteem grows by helping someone else.

This program would not be possible without the generosity and cooperation of Sherm Anderson of Sun Mountain Lumber and Deer Lodge Mayor Jim Maggione,

who helps arrange delivery utilizing city trucks, involves city workers and personally thanks the platoon of trainees.

The program has been the inspiration for another endeavor spearheaded by Gov. Brian Schweitzer to expand a similar project into other Montana communities. The Montana State Prison fire crew has collected deadwood from the 37,000-acre prison property during the winter when most of the roads were closed. Inmates hike into the woods and pack the downed timber to open roads. The deadwood was delivered to the boot camp where trainees chopped the trees into firewood.

Tom Gillibrand, fire crew supervisor, said, "It is a huge benefit to inmates to help and give something back."

The center is a military-style correctional program for male offenders. Once in the facility, offenders un-

dergo both physical and mental rehabilitation in an atmosphere of strict, military-type discipline. About half the program involves discipline and physical training; the balance is treatment.

It is a rigid but positive atmosphere for change. The intensive treatment program includes classes in anger management, substance abuse education and chemical dependency counseling, high school diploma classes, accountability and relapse prevention, cognitive principles and restructuring, living skills, parenting, health education, victimology and victim impacts. The 90-120 day program was developed as a method of reducing incarceration costs and to reduce the number of victims.

Other community projects for trainees include cleaning and pulling weeds at the rodeo grounds, main street, Arrowstone Park, the football and baseball fields, and the Powell County Museum.



Inmates from the Treasure State Correctional Training Center load firewood into large Deer Lodge city trucks for transport to distribution sites.



Booters move raw logs in preparation for cutting and splitting into firewood.



Members of the Corrections Advisory Council's subcommittee meet at the Helena Prerelease Center to hear a presentation on Indian corrections from members of the Blackfoot Tribe at Lethbridge, Alberta.

Advisory council studies array of offender services

By Bob Anez

DOC Communications Director

The Department of Corrections Advisory Council has launched a study of community services available for offenders, hoping to identify what more is needed to improve the chances of those on probation or parole to avoid prison.

Much of the work is being done by a subcommittee of the council. The members are Rep. Gail Gutsche, a Missoula Democrat and chairwoman; Reps. Veronica Small-Eastman, D-Lodge Grass; Rep. Tim Callahan, D-Great Falls; Sen. Jim Shockley, R-Victor; Toole County Commissioner Allan Underdal, Shelby; and Cascade County Sheriff Dave Castle.

The goal of the study is to affect the prison population by reducing the number of offenders entering prison and the number of offenders returning to prison by providing more individualized community-based programs and services for offenders.

The focus is on what are commonly called "transition" or "re-entry" programs and services. While those titles refer to programs and services designed to serve offenders bound from prison back to society, they are the same programs and services that can help divert offenders bound for prison.

The study addresses both groups of offenders.

In Montana, about 47 out of every 100 inmates at Montana State Prison are there for violating conditions of their community release. The study is looking at why these offenders fail in the community and what can be done to improve their odds of success.

On the other hand, about 97 percent of all offenders in prison will someday be released and need community programs to help them turn their lives around.

Most of those people leave prison with a lack education and job skills; drug addictions and related mental health problems; little or no family support; health problems; and no place to live. But some of the same hurdles face many offenders never sent to prison.

The list of programs and services being addressed in the study includes chemical dependency counseling and treatment, mental health services, parenting classes, housing assistance, anger management classes, job search, sex offender treatment, gambling addiction counseling, adult basic education, and vocational-rehabilitation services referrals.

The issue of available community programs and services is important because Montana's state-run prisons are overflowing. The U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that, as of the end of 2004, Montana's inmate population was 23 percent beyond the system's operating capacity. Only three states were worse off.

Hamel heads CSD

Gary Hamel, fiscal and budget manager for the Department of Environmental Quality for almost two years, became administrator of the Department of Corrections Centralized Services Division on March 20.

Hamel, 42, replaced Joe Williams, who left the department in October.

Hamel lives in the Jefferson City area. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting from Montana Tech in 1989 and obtained a master's degree in public administration from the University of Montana in 1996.

Before his job at DEQ, Hamel spent more than four years as an analyst in the Legislative Fiscal Division. He also was chief of the Milk Control Bureau in the Department of Livestock and worked at the Department of Labor and Industry. He has worked for state government since 1990.

Hamel is a reserve deputy for the Jefferson County sheriff's department.



Gary Hamel

DUI program has smooth start

By Margaret Brinkley
Glendive Ranger-Review
Staff Writer

A year after opening its doors, the state Department of Corrections' alcohol treatment facility, WATCH East, hasn't created the problems residents in the area were initially worried about.

The facility offers programs for felony DUI offenders, individuals who have four or more offenses.

David Svenvold, a Hillcrest resident who lives about a block from the facility and had expressed concern when the facility was proposed, said the first year of the facility has gone smoothly.

"It's like the place isn't even there. It's gone off without a hitch, in my opinion," Svenvold said. "It's been fine."

Dave Dorwart, a member of the work committee that initially handled issues relating to the facility, said he feels ambivalent about it. He said putting the facility in never bothered him; his primary concern was having administrative rules to limit the type of facility and the types of inmates who could be put in there in the future. Dorwart said he has never even seen a resident of the alcohol treatment facility.

Homeowners in the Hillcrest and Georgetown areas were worried the presence of the facility would cause property values to decrease.

Tami Freas, sales associate with Montana East Realty, said she has not seen a reduction in property values in that area. She doesn't think the facility



The 1-year-old WATCH East program is housed in the former Eastmont center building at Glendive.

has had any effect, and prices for houses in that area have been good and the homes are selling quickly, she said. They've had the same kind of increase as everyone else has in the last 18 months, Freas concluded.

Joe Fabian, a broker with Realty One, said realtors there haven't seen a reduction in property values in any area of town, including the Hillcrest/Georgetown area.

The presence of WATCH East hasn't affected any of the buyers he has shown homes to in that area, he said.

"We're looking forward to continuing a good relationship with (WATCH East)," Fabian noted.

Although the Glendive Police Department has handled a few calls at the facility, Chief Alan Michaels said the incidents turned out to be "minor, very minor."

"The program has done very well from what I

can see," Michaels said. "There has not been any problem at all."

Dawson County Attorney Scott Herring said, to date, he hasn't had to handle any cases relating to residents of the WATCH East facility.

The police have come to the facility on two occasions to transport family

members to jail and two other times, said Deb Dion, program coordinator. The two other times related to incidents involving mountain lion sightings. They've also come out to serve legal papers, such as for divorce, on family members, she added.

Occasionally, when a family member violates the rules, a hearing has to be held with the probation officer at the facility, Dion explained. Depending on the result of the hearing, the probation officer may sanction the family member and require them to spend time in jail. Typically, the jail time served varies from two to 15 days.

When a family member is taken to jail, it is required that the staff member who transports the family member is of the same gender. There have been a couple of occasions when there hasn't been staff available to transport the family member to the jail, and the police officers have come out to pick up the person, Dion said.

Another issue of concern from Glendive residents was who would pay for the times a non-Dawson County resident may spend in jail. Dion said the Department of Corrections pays for the time the family member spends in jail. Once the person completes the program, he or she is required to reimburse the DOC at a rate of \$60 per day, she added.

'The program has done very well from what I can see. There has not been any problem at all.'

**Police Chief
Alan Michaels**

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New Employees

EDITOR'S NOTE: This list includes new hires through March 17, 2006, based on personnel records in the central office. If you notice any errors or omissions, please call the *Signpost* editor at (406) 444-0409, or e-mail him at banez@mt.gov.

Central Office

Dawny McElderry

Montana State Prison

Chavis Berdahl
Kristopher Beldsoe
Daniel Billson
Terry Brien
Derek Browning
Lorrie Byers
Anne Cole
Isaac Coy
Rebecca Davis
David Fetters
Chris Guthrie
Kelly Hagen
Nicholas Hansen
Tammra Hanson
Sheryl Hoffarth
Tracy Horton
Kirk Jones
Steven Kinney
Tammy Krause
Mark Maness
John Molendyke
Thomas Nelson
Matthew O'Brien
Thomas Pidgeon

Travis Pierson
Danny Riddle
Chad Robinson
Joshua Shytle
Vicky Squires
Jeanne Stone
Kode Struble
Joseph Turner
Eric Woolverton

Montana Women's Prison

Stephen Grinder
Natalie Ingraham
Daniel Root

Pine Hills

Sue Alexander-Pruitt
Keith Lindvold
Glen Shelhamer
Amy Wright

Treasure State

Travis Benton
Courtney Dupuis
Jason Madden

Probation & Parole

Shawn Suda

Riverside

Mary Johnson
Ruth Ann Shope (correction)

Youth Transition Center

Scott Sherbrick



Montana Department of Corrections Mission

The Montana Department of Corrections enhances public safety, promotes positive change in offender behavior, reintegrates offenders into the community and supports victims of crime.

Signpost Deadlines

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Edition</u>
March 31.....	Spring
June 30.....	Summer
Sept. 30.....	Fall
Dec. 30.....	Winter

Mike Micu, center, chief investigator for the Department of Corrections, accepts an award from FBI agents Kevin Damuth, left, and Scott Cruse, for his help in investigating drug-trafficking by an officer at Montana State Prison.



The Correctional Signpost is published by the Montana Department of Corrections at the central office, 1539 11th Ave., P.O. Box 201301, Helena, MT 59620-1301.

The *Signpost* can be found online at www.cor.state.mt.us.

DOC Director: Bill Slaughter
Signpost Editor: Bob Anez, (406) 444-0409, banez@mt.gov